However, the doubling of Bangalore-Kengeri (12.45 km) and Kengeri-Ramanagaram (32.43 km) sections of Bangalore-Mysore line have been included in the Railway Budget. The work would be taken up as per the operational priority and availability of resources.

Stoppage of Pooja Express at Gurgaon

2252. SHRI RAO MAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for stoppage of Pooja Express at Gurgaon; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have taken any action thereon; if so, the details thereof if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Some representations had been received regarding stoppage of 2413/2414 Delhi-Jaipur Express at Gurgaon.

(b) These were examined but not found feasible for implementation.

Palace on Wheels for A.P.

2253. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Palace on Wheels for Andhra Pradesh derailed";

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the reasons for Government backing out of their commitment to the proposal initiated by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and agreed to by the then Minister of Railways;

(d) whether Government would have a fresh look at the project which would promote growth of tourism in the State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal to run a Palace on Wheels type luxury tourist train was

examined in the Ministry of Railways in 1997. The project was found operationally feasible but State Government of Andhra Pradesh did not give consent to bear their share of cost and the project could not take off.

Indian Railways is, however, ready to undertake the project if the State Government bears the investment required.

Computerised ticket booking facilities at Silchar and Badarpur

2254. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide computerised ticket booking facilities for rail journeys from Silchar and Badarpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the facility is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Computerised ticket booking facilities is already available at Silchar. However, these facilities are not available at Badarpur at present.

Computerised reservation facilities are capital intensive and also involve significant recurring costs. These are provided at railway stations registering a large number of reservation related transactions. The reservation workload available at Badarpur railway station is not high enough to qualify for provision of these facilities at present.

Genetically engineered rice

2255. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop and introduce genetically engineered rice (Golden Rice) when other countries and international organisations are against the entry of genetically modified foods; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for opting for genetically modified